

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 02598 271737Z

22

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

SAB-01 OMB-01 IO-13 /073 W
----- 011856

R 271716Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7433

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 2598

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE

SUBJECT: VISIT OF JIBRAN MAJDALANI TO DAMASCUS

REF: DAMASCUS 2596

1. REFTTEL REPORTED THAT PRESIDENT ASAD HAD RECEIVED LEBANESE LAWYER JIBRAN MAJDALANI AT NOON APRIL 26 SHORTLY BEFORE MEETING WITH KAMAL ASSAD. MAJDALANI WAS MEMBER OF BAATH PARTY LEADERSHIP DURING MID-SIXTIES, FORCED OUT OF SYRIA AS RESULT OF SALAH JADID COUP IN 1966. HE HAS SINCE BEEN LIVING IN LEBANON AND REPORTEDLY HAS TIES WITH JUMBLATT. HE WAS THEN AND IS NOW ASSOCIATED WITH POLITICAL GROUPING CRITICAL OF ASAD TO WHICH MFA AMERICAN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR HAMOUD SHOEFI ALSO BELONGS (SHOEFI WAS BAATH PARTY SEC GEN IN MID-SIXTIES FOR SHORT PERIOD). SHOEFI-MAJDALANI GROUP IN TURN APPARENTLY IN CONTACT WITH OTHER SYRIAN EXILES LED BY CO-FOUNDER OF BAATH PARTY SALAH BITAR, WHO WAS OFFICIALLY PARDONED BY PRES. ASAD IN DECEMBER 1975 BUT DECIDED NOT TO RETURN TO SYRIA.

2. PRESIDENTIAL COUNSELOR DAOUDI TOLD US APRIL 27 THAT SIGNIFICANCE OF VISIT WAS NOT ONLY FACT THAT IT TOOK PLACE BUT ALSO
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DAMASC 02598 271737Z

THAT MAJDALANI-ASAD MEETING OFFICIALLY REPORTED BY SYRIAN NEWS

MEDIA. DAOUDI SAID THAT PRES. ASAD'S POLICY WAS TO "EXTEND HIS HAND TO SUPPORTERS OF MICHEL AFLAQ" AND IF THEY RECIPROCATED TO WELCOME THEM BACK TO SYRIA.

3. COMMENT: IT IS INTERESTING THAT MAJDALANI, UNLIKE BITAR, HAS COME TO DAMASCUS TO RECEIVE OLIVE BRANCH EXTENDED BY PRESIDENT. DAOUDI'S REMARKS PROBABLY DO NOT TELL THE FULL STORY. TIMING OF MAJDALANI'S VISIT AND HIS KNOWN JUMBLATT ASSOCIATION MAY INDICATE THAT PUBLIC RECONCILIATION IS ANOTHER LINK IN SYRIAN EFFORT TO ENCIRCLE JUMBLATT. ALSO SHOEFI IS PROFESSED ADMIRER OF RAYMOND EDDE. MAJDALANI MAY ALSO BE. THUS, MAJDALANI'S VISIT PERHAPS AFFORDED ASAD A FURTHER OPPORTUNITY TO PROCLAIM HIS NEUTRALITY IN LEBANESE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS. WE WOULD WELCOME ANY FURTHER LIGHT EMBASSY BEIRUT OR INR/RNA/NE MAY BE ABLE TO SHED ON MAJDALANI'S CURRENT ACTIVITIES AND HIS APRIL 26 VISIT TO DAMASCUS.
MURPHY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976DAMASC02598
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760160-0686
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760419/aaaaapte.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 DAMASCUS 2596
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUN 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <12 OCT 2004 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF JIBRAN MAJDALANI TO DAMASCUS
TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE, (MAJDALANI, JIBRAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006